

Gateway

UNO
ARCHIVES

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June 16, 1989 Volume 88 Issue 60



Demonstrators marched on the State Capitol in Lincoln June 5 in anger over the brutal crackdown on Chinese student demonstrators in Beijing. See Page 2.

Dave Weaver

Bush speaks about fuel additive

By DAVID JAHR
Associate Editor

President Bush said Nebraska farmers will not only help put food on U.S. tables, but will be putting fuel in American gas tanks.

Bush spent two hours in Lincoln Tuesday, and made a speech to nearly 11,000 people about a fuel additive made from corn. This fuel would reduce smog and other forms of air pollution.

"Our goal is clean air, make no mistake about it. We are going to achieve our goal," he told listeners at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

In his speech, Bush lauded University of Nebraska research on the additive ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE).

"All Nebraskans can be proud of the pioneering going on at this university," he said. "It's a privilege to be in this state."

Bush said concern for the environment is strong in Nebraska, but pollution is a national concern.

"Pollution respects no borders," he said. "There's no safe haven. It's not just a big city problem anymore."

Bush said ETBE, derived from ethanol, is a home-grown, national alternative.

"We've got to plan for the future now and alternate fuels are an American answer."

According to Bush, just 8 percent of cars in the nation are using corn-based fuels like ethanol. But under his clean air plan, nine urban areas with the worst ozone pollution will be required to put one million ethanol fueled vehicles on the street by 1997.

"The cars will run on corn and these fuels will take the market by storm," he said.

The President drove a test automobile fueled by an ethanol blend while in Lincoln. He said testing has determined the additive will burn cleaner and enhance engine performance.

"I'm not the best judge, but it was a nice ride."

"ETBE isn't quite a household word, but it may become one based on the research I've seen today."

Bush was introduced by Gov. Kay Orr, who commented on Bush's vow to bring a "new breeze" to America. Orr said Bush will ensure this breeze will be pure, clean air.

After Bush completed his speech, Orr led the audience in singing "Happy Birthday." Bush turned 65 Monday.



World-Herald, File Photo

Shooting of Strong instigates riots

It was a hot summer night. Kids were playing outside the Logan Fontenelle housing project. A Policeman, answering a complaint of a break-in at one of the housing units, fires a single shot.

Thirty-five yards away, a 14-year-old neighbor girl drops to the pavement with a bullet in her head.

The next night, fires break out along 24th Street. Policemen and firemen are pelted with rocks, bottles. People are arrested.

And the next night

And the next.

By the fifth night the incidents begin to tail off. On the sixth day, Under a giant tree, a group of mourners weep as the dead girl, Vivian Strong, is buried.

But the summer stretched ahead.

*—Excerpt from the Omaha Sun
Newspaper*

July 2, 1969



By ERIC STOAKES and JOHN WATSON
Editor Feature Editor

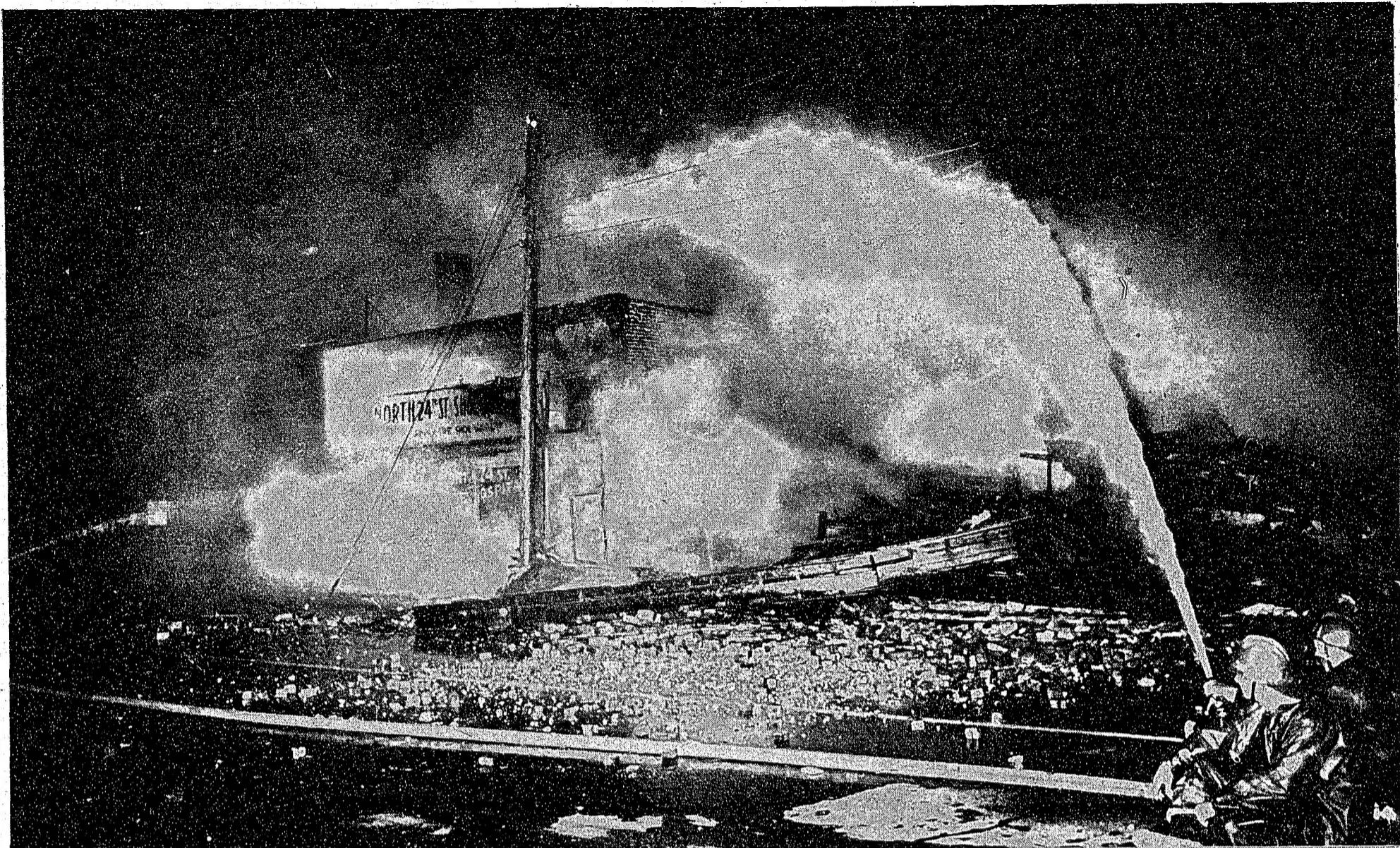
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Twenty years after the death of Vivian Strong, North Omaha still bears the scars of five nights of looting, fire-bombing and rioting. Vacant lots line 24th Street as a reminder of that fatal, June 24, 1969 shooting.

The young black girl's death caused by the bullet of a white police officer's gun incited the most devastating racial rioting Omaha has ever experienced, according to then Mayor Eugene Leahy, who had been in office only 30 days before the rioting began.

"Omaha, like many other cities at the time, was sitting on a boiling pot ready to blow any day, and it did," Leahy said, reflecting on nights of rioting that followed the shooting.

Continued on Page 2



World-Herald File Photo

Firefighters battle a blaze near 24th and Clark Streets, following riots in North Omaha in the summer of '69

Continued from Page 1

Nearly \$1 million in property damage was done in a several-block area "to predominantly white businesses," Leahy said.

"It was a terrifying experience, seeing the city burn for four days, hearing the gunplay over the two-way radios, firing at our fireman who were unarmed," Leahy said. "I told them to get the firemen out of there, if they want it to burn, let it burn."

"It was the need of a particular element of our society to call attention to the need for change for equality," Leahy said.

The officer who shot Vivian, James L. Loder, was charged with manslaughter and fired from the police de-

rehired by the police in 1970.

State Sen. Ernie Chambers, who was running for office in 1969, still insists the Strong shooting was "a cold blooded murder."

Later, Loder was rehired by the police department, only to be fired the next year for various rules infractions.

"He (Loder) should have never been hired in the first place," Leahy said. "She happened to take off running, it was very obvious she was a young girl and it certainly didn't warrant a .38 slug going through the back of her head."

Chambers called the situation after the shooting volatile, angry, sullen and extremely hostile. "It caused a minor explosion," Chambers said. "The police came into the area

to intimidate people."

Chambers said the rioting was justified because their actions were in self-defense. "If our children can be shot down then the rules are such that anything goes. Not that it was good or desirable, but in those circumstances, it was a means of striking back," he said.

Leahy said as mayor he tried to deal with the problem as intelligently as any city official could have. "How does anyone prepare for an unknown crisis," Leahy said. "I really didn't know anything about rioting, but until something hits right at home, you really don't know how to regard it," he said.

Chinese students face uncertain future

By ERIC STOAKES

Editor

The first in a series on the crisis in China.

When Zheng Wei, 25, left China last September to study graduate biology at UNO, he never considered he might not see his wife or family again. But the crisis in his homeland may turn this grim possibility into an unfortunate reality.

Turmoil in China has left many Chinese citizens who are living abroad speculating over uncertain futures.

"There is the possibility that I will never be able to return to China," Wei said. "This is the fear of many Chinese in the United States. It depends on what happens next."

Wei said many U.S. citizens may have difficulty understanding the predicament of those Chinese living abroad.

"Most Americans have not experienced a separation from family due to political events," Wei said. "In China, many people throughout recent history have suffered from family separations; but, for Americans, it may be hard to imagine."

Wei said his wife, Yongjun Zeng, has been attempting to leave China. "She's been trying, but it is becoming more and more difficult," he said.

If the government decides to "close the door" on the mainland, Wei said it may be impossible for Chinese to leave the country, especially those destined for the United States.

Wei said if the door is closed, he will most likely try to return home.

"This is not just my family," Wei said. "There are many families who will be the victim of this disaster, and we will all suffer from it."

Wei and his wife met while attending South China Normal University, a sister college to UNO, located in the southern

province of Canton. She received her masters degree, and now works at that university.

Since the massacre at Tiananmen Square, Wei has spoken to his wife twice. He said that in Canton, which is located more than 1,000 miles from Beijing, the Chinese are aware of the brutal massacre of demonstrators.

"In Canton it's a little different than in the other provinces because it is very close to Hong Kong and they heard the news of the massacre on Hong Kong television and radio," he said. "The people there know what has happened, but in other parts of China, most of the people do not know because the govern-

ment supports the democratic movement led by the students, and said political reforms are long overdue.

"Political changes have become both necessary and inevitable," Wei said. "China has been open to the outside world for about twenty years and many things have been done in the development of the economy."

"But as economic development increases, more people are realizing the system in China needs to be changed or that development will be hindered," he said. "It's critical that China change its political system to fit the economic development."

Since China "opened" to the outside world, Wei said many Chinese students have been able to study abroad, allowing them to be influenced by western political philosophies.

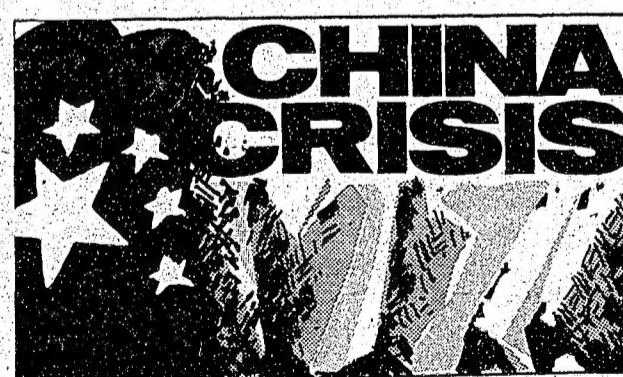
"Those students are realizing their democratic rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of press." Rights that have been deprived by a government that wants complete control, he said.

It is the policies of these conservative leaders that is oppressing political freedoms, he said.

"They feel that this kind of democratic movement could threaten their power, and they believe only under their leadership and interpretation can China go toward democratization and modernization," Wei said.

The massacre in Beijing shows the extent to which the government will go to insure their power, Wei said.

"It reflects how cruel and brutal the Chinese Communist Party can be when they feel there is something that could threaten their power," he said. History has proven, Wei said, the Chinese Communist Party would not be able to lead the people in China to a modern, democratic society.



ment has broadcast propaganda, trying to hide the dirty work they have done."

Wei, like other Chinese in this country, heard the news on television. "When I learned what had happened I have never been so angry," he said. "I wept for the death of the young people. They are brave and willing to die for the future of China; the democratization of China."

Supreme Court to decide Kearney State's university status

By JULIE CONDON
Staff Reporter

Unless the Nebraska Supreme Court determines otherwise, Kearney State College will become part of the University of Nebraska system July 1, 1991.

With a vote of 36-11, the Legislature passed LB 247, which includes a study of higher education in Nebraska, as well as merging Kearney State into the NU system. Gov. Kay Orr signed the bill May 23.

Due to an opinion released earlier this year by State Attorney General Robert Spire, Legislative Bill 247 still has one final challenge to overcome. Spire said merging Kearney into the system would require a constitutional amendment, which can only occur by a public vote.

"I will bring a test case before the court," Spire said. "I think it clearly requires a constitutional amendment."

"My own personal opinion is that Kearney certainly ought to be a university, but my personal opinion is not what I was asked," Spire said. "This is an important legal question. I anticipate having the case heard before the state Supreme Court."

Spire said he will ask the state Supreme Court to hear the case first, instead of beginning at a lower court level, since the case is of high public interest. He anticipates a decision to be reached within a year.

William Nester, Kearney State College president, said the constitutional issue must be resolved by the state Supreme

Court. "We will welcome that clarification," he said.

The Kearney merger, which was originally outlined in LB 160, has raised both concerns and hopes among Nebraska senators and members of the Board of Regents.

Regent Rosemary Skrupa said it will be difficult to determine what will happen until the study outlined in LB 247 is conducted. Skrupa said the regents will form a committee to look at various aspects of the Kearney merger.

"I don't know how Kearney would fit into the scheme," she said. "I think a lot of it depends on the study. The study's outcome could prove the merger is too costly."

"I think UNO will get better funding because of Kearney, rather than Kearney decreasing it," he said.

Nester said the Legislature has recognized that Kearney is under-funded. "The issue of funding always relates to how well you present your case to the Legislature," he said. Sen. Jim McFarland of Lincoln, who voted against LB 247, said concerns about funding are warranted.

"If the funding from the Legislature decreases, then some hard decisions will have to be made," he said. "Merely bringing them under the Board of Regents may or may not increase funding."

In addition to funding, Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, who also opposed the bill, said he has concerns about how the state should govern higher education and the effects the Kearney merger will have on the other state colleges.

"If the court challenge finds that we can't proceed as the bill calls for, maybe some of these questions will be answered," he said.

Nester said Kearney State is different from the other three state colleges in size and complexity. "My guess is that Kearney State is kind of a test case of seeing how successfully they could be integrated into the university system," he said.

Spire said the coordination of higher education in Nebraska is a vital issue.

"It's terribly important we support higher education and coordinate it effectively," he said. "The state has an obligation to provide higher education the same way it provides secondary and elementary education."

Legislative REPORT

Sen. Lorraine Langford, who voted for LB 247, said, "Kearney is already a university by anybody's criteria."

Another supporter of LB 247, Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha, said the Kearney merger would benefit UNO.

"My general feeling is that the Kearney State entry is going to enhance UNO," he said. "I see UNO as becoming a bigger part of the university system."

Ashford said the Kearney debate has increased legislators' awareness of the importance of more funding for higher education.

Gateway

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Letters must be signed using the first and last name or initials and the last name. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number although this information will not be published. Letters exceeding two typed pages will be designated commentary and will be considered for publication as an Access column. Requests to withhold names will not be considered.

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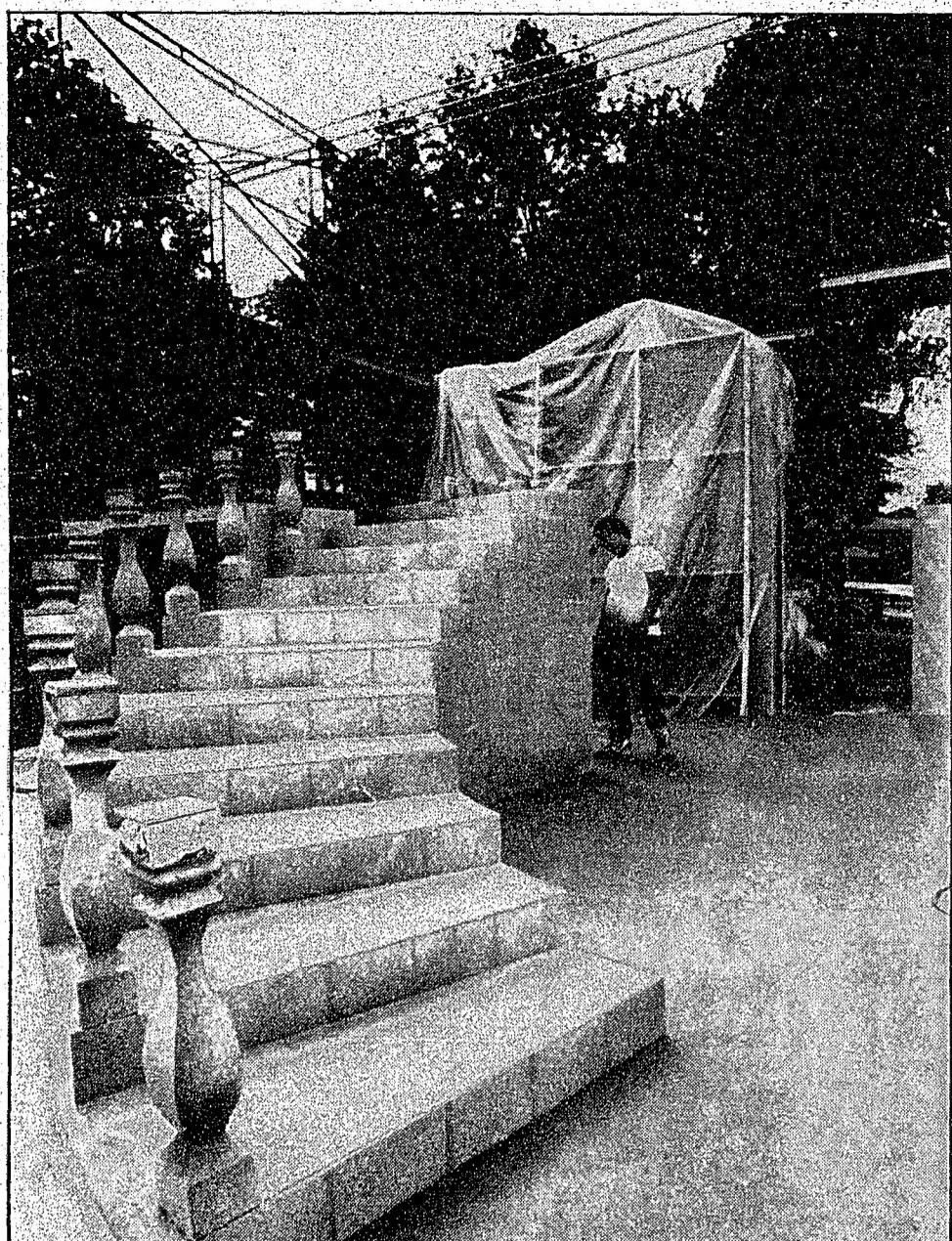
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"SHAKESPEARE ON THE GREEN"



Dave Weaver
Jerry Onik from Heartland Scenic prepares the stage for the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival production of "Romeo and Juliet" in Elmwood Park.

Romance and comedy slated for summer festival in Elmwood Park

By JOHN WATSON
Feature Editor

The Nebraska Shakespeare Festival will return to Elmwood Park this summer with performances of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Much Ado About Nothing," according to Barbara Hewins-Maroney, managing director of the festival.

"Romeo and Juliet" will be performed June 22-25 and July 6 and 8. "Much Ado About Nothing" will take the stage June 29-July 2 and July 7 and 9.

Cindy Melby Phaneuf, associate professor of dramatic arts at UNO, will direct "Much Ado About Nothing," and Alan Klem, assistant professor of fine arts/theater at Creighton, will direct "Romeo and Juliet."

"We didn't want to do this just one time," Phaneuf said. "If we can have one more strong year, then it really will be a tradition." Klem and Phaneuf co-founded the festival in 1986.

Klem started a Shakespeare festival in Fort Worth, Texas before coming to Creighton. "We kind of used that as a role model," Klem said.

Phaneuf said each year they will try to produce a well-known play along with one not as popular. "We think 'Romeo and Juliet' will be the headliner," she said. "We're hoping the audience will like it and come back for 'Much Ado About Nothing.'"

"Much Ado About Nothing" is a light-hearted, entertaining play, according to Phaneuf. "It's the same kind of battle-of-the-sexes humor as 'Cheers' and 'Moonlight-

ing,'" she said.

Klem said "Romeo and Juliet" is popular because a love story is almost always a contemporary theme.

The stage will be set upon a scaffolding platform which was used last spring by Opera Omaha. Phaneuf said the opera contacted them earlier in the season to work something out. "We saved a little bit of money, of set up and take down," she said.

The two shows in this year's festival will share the same set. "We do small variations on

Theater- PREVIEW

the same set for both shows," Phaneuf said. "They both take place in and around houses, churches and ballrooms with a large staircase that revolves mechanically as the main scenic element."

She said she's pleased with the quality of the festival. "It's taken other festivals a lot longer to get where we are, artistically," Phaneuf said. "We're happy that we were able to attract the kind of talent that we have."

Although public donations will be taken, Phaneuf said, "The primary support comes from foundations and corporations." The Nebraska Arts Foundation, the Omaha World-Herald and the Peter Kiewit Foundation donated funds; UNO and Creighton University also provided support, she said. "Without those people we wouldn't be able to do it."

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940"

Playhouse production "A solid evening of laughter"

By ELIZABETH TAPE
Theater Critic

There's a lot of laughter to be found these days on the main stage of the Omaha Community Playhouse. Their current production, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," gets off to a slightly slow start, but generates one laugh after another in its rollicking second act.

The play's title sets the tone for this black comedy. Its opening moments present a murder committed in a highly comedic style, alerting the audience that any sense of social or political responsibility must be left at the theater's door. Having done so, prepare for an uproarious expedition through a maze of odd characters, secret passages — and death.

designed to confound even the most attentive audience member.

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" succeeds in a multitude of areas. For one, its able cast works together excellently. Ree Davis as Elsa Von Grossenknutten, with her resonant, melodious voice, handles her role as the well-intended, would-be Broadway "angel" splendidly.

Darlynn Fellman as Helsa Wenzel, Ms. Von Grossenknutten's overzealous housekeeper, delights the audience with her overstatement German accent and excessive gesturing, such as pounding the wall with her dust-mop or crashing a food tray on the table so that hors d'oeuvres fly everywhere.

Dan Kramer as Sgt. Kelly performs excellently as the burly, New York police agent who, despite all of the best intentions, needs considerable help from others in the group, to ferret out all of the villains.

John Durbin as Patrick O'Reilly achieves a magnificent Irish accent as he slithers about the stage. His understated performance contrasts effectively with the wild antics of several other cast members.

Similarly, Bill Hutson as Hollywood film director Ken De La Maize offers a calm, consistent performance.

Terry Berner as Eddie McCuen energizes his role of a would-be star. He ably controls his spirited zeal, resulting in a charming performance.

Theresa Cassady plays Nikki Crandall, a one-time, would-be "chorus girl," and her role becomes pivotal as the play evolves. With crisp delivery and talented singing, she excels as a character who could easily become disarming. Her vocal delivery and mannerisms enhance her performance.

With the provisos suggested above, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" will generate for many viewers a solid evening of laughter.



John Durbin and Darlynn Fellman are two of the cast members in the Omaha Community Playhouse's production of The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.



H. John Lee, a radio "actor" in one of KVNO's TekniKolour Radio dramas airing this summer

Twelve dramas to open up listeners' imaginations

TekniKolour comes to KVNO

By GREG KOZOL
Staff Reporter

Once upon a time, before cable TV and VCRs, radio ruled as the main source of dramatic entertainment.

The 1940's style of radio programming is making a comeback this summer with TekniKolour Radio, 90.7 FM. The series of 12 locally produced radio dramas air on KVNO, UNO's noncommercial classical and jazz radio

station.

"Radio drama opens up the theater in your mind, making you believe you're someplace you're not," Jim Payne, producer of TekniKolour Radio, said.

Payne said unlike television, TekniKolour's radio dramas allow the listener to make full use of their own imagination, rather than relying on the imagination of an outside observer.

"Radio gives you the idea of psych by audio. It sucks you into the action," he said.

The TekniKolour series opened May 3 with "Improvident Dreams, Improbable Lives," a drama following the twist of a love triangle over a 50-year period.

The series continues through July 23, with a 30 minute episode airing every Wednesday and Sunday at 6 p.m.

TekniKolour's 12 programs range from love stories like "Improvident Dreams," to political satires like "Of Dandelions and Campaign Signs."

But Teknikolour also has serious productions. "Playback," is a murder mystery set in Omaha's Old Market, and "Beyond Blue Mountain," tells the story of one man's tragic life in the Appellation coal mines.

Payne said that all 12 episodes were locally written, produced and acted. "We have such talent here," he said.

Payne said TekniKolour began last year with 32 local writers submitting prospective

scripts to KVNO. The list was then trimmed to 12 by a panel of six judges.

The 12 selected scripts varied from accomplished Omaha area playwrights to first-time writers, Payne said. "We're always more than happy to hear from prospective writers, regardless of experience," he said.

KVNO is judging scripts for next year's TekniKolour programs. The scripts must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. June 30 at KVNO.

One writer for this season, Kim Kavalec, said writing a radio drama proved to be well worth the effort. "It's exciting to sit in on production and rehearsal, to see your words turned into action," she said.

Kavalec, a 1984 graduate of UNO with an English degree, wrote "Old Friends," the story of two schoolmates reminiscing on a painful adolescence.

"It's a great opportunity for local writers. I'm working on something for next year," she said.

Doug Marr, an established Omaha playwright, has also written a script. "It's one of the best times I've ever had writing," he said.

Marr wrote "Bud Science, Part One and Two," a slapstick adventure in the Indiana Jones mold. He also acted in six of the episodes.

Marr said radio drama provides several exciting opportunities. "On a live stage, you're restricted in your special effects," he said. "On radio, with only sound and music, you can create the effect of a jet bomber diving if you want."

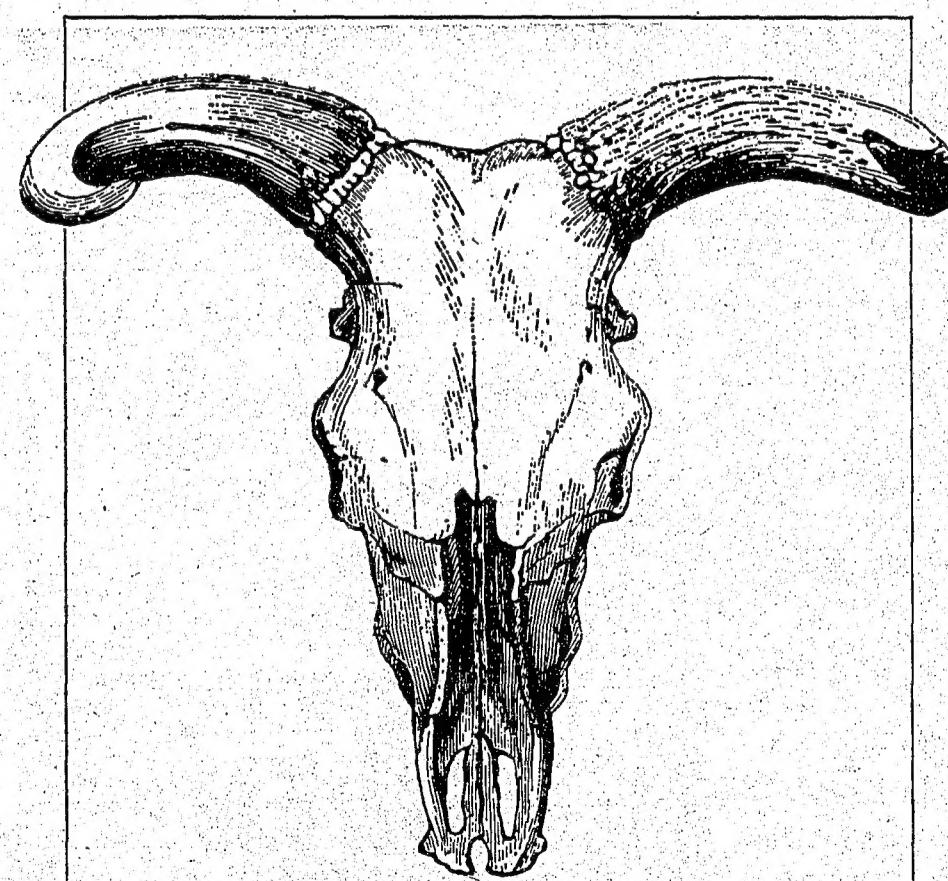
Payne said another vital link in the TekniKolour process is the recording of music and special effects.

Ron Cooley, who has performed with Mannheim Steamroller, and Steve Gomez, a member of an Omaha-based jazz band called Luigi Inc., performed the varieties of music each episode demanded.

"The music is important for both the sound effect and story transition," Cooley said.

Although final production was tedious, Payne said many of the bugs will be worked out when TekniKolour returns next year. The program will also receive another grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Payne said it is difficult to predict the success of TekniKolour Radio before the ratings come in, but he hopes it will catch on.

"A lot of people 35 and older listen to it because they still remember radio drama," he said. "I hope the younger people will see it as an exciting new art form and tune in," he said.



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Gibson steps into director's chair

20-year UNO employee didn't need to apply first time

By DAVID JAHR
Associate Editor

After two searches and 10 months of soliciting candidates from around the nation, UNO now has an athletic director.

Chancellor Del Weber announced Bob Gibson's appointment May 22. Gibson has been a UNO employee for 20 years, serving as director of UNO's Career Placement and Planning Services for the last five years.

"I feel he (Gibson) had the right set of qualities," Weber said. "I wanted someone who had fire and enthusiasm for UNO."

Weber said he planned to select a new athletic director from the original field of 49 applicants by early January. However he did not choose either of the four finalists because the "chemistry" was not right.

"I didn't want to fill the job with just anyone," Weber said.

Gibson did not apply in the first search.

"I didn't believe I would get through the search committee," Gibson said.

A second search began in the spring. Weber reversed the procedure so he could screen the applicants before giving his recommendations to the selection committee. In the first search, the committee screened the candidates before the chancellor.

The second search yielded more than 50 candidates, including Gibson.

Gibson said he decided to apply after discussing with Weber the qualifications needed for the job.

"I've been the director of Career Planning and Placement Services, so I know a little bit



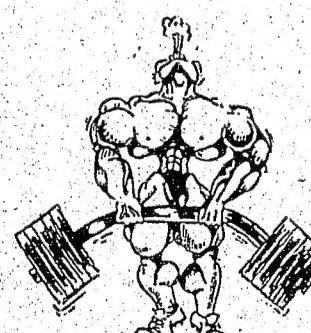
Dave Weaver

UNO's new athletic director, Bob Gibson said money and facilities are the primary concerns for further development of the athletic programs.



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about job search and all those things you need to do," Gibson said.

Before Gibson took over as director of Career Placement and Planning Services, he was Bob Hanson's assistant basketball coach. During his 12 years of coaching, Gibson helped the Mavericks compile a 206-133 record.

Going into the second search for athletic director, Gibson said he thought he had the qualifications necessary for the job.

"As a matter of fact I felt that I was more qualified than anybody."

Weber and the search committee agreed.

"I wasn't conducting a popularity contest," Weber said. "I've watched Bob for 12 years and it came down to how I felt about it. I felt good."

Gibson was also interviewed by other university officials.

"When I interviewed him, he had pride in the university, he was excited and he's respected on campus," said Connie Claussen, the women's athletic director.

Claussen said she is optimistic about working with Gibson.

"I've got some ideas and he's got some ideas, we just need to coordinate and work together, and I think that will happen," she said.

With the hiring of Gibson, Gary Anderson, who held the job on an interim basis, will step down and return to his sports information director's seat.

Anderson said stepping away from the athletic director's position is easy since he knows Gibson will be the new athletic direc-

tor.

"It feels good to walk away from this and know somebody good is going to be in there and not somebody who's starting from scratch," he said. "I think the wait was worth it, I think we found the right person."

Anderson said Gibson will make the shift into the office easily because Gibson is already familiar with the university.

"For me it's a good transition, because he understands the workings of the university, understands the personality of UNO, and has a feel for our department," Anderson said.

Another advantage to hiring someone already tied to UNO is the department doesn't have to take all summer getting to know his personality, according to Anderson.

Gibson said the advantage he had over the other applicants was his professional relationship with Weber.

"He (Weber) knows what he's going to get from me," Gibson said. "I think he understands that I'm sold on the university. I'm sold on Omaha. UNO is a great university and I think it can be better, and things are looking good for us. I had an advantage in that sense."

Anderson said besides Gibson's enthusiasm and familiarity with UNO, the new athletic director will bring an academic perspective to the position.

"He's going to be a very strong administrator, because he's coming in somewhat from outside of athletics," Anderson said. "He will bring a better perspective to the job."

New AD says funding is main concern

UNO's new athletic director, Bob Gibson, spent his first week on the job at a convention in Georgia learning ways to tackle the department's biggest concern: money and how to raise it.

Gibson said the athletic department's funding is the biggest obstacle, especially after Gov. Kay Orr vetoed a \$200,000 spending proposal for UNO athletics three weeks ago.

"We need more funds, that's all there is to it. This is a major concern for any athletic department," Gibson said. He will have a \$1.4 million budget to allocate to the nine sports UNO sponsors.

Women's Athletic Director, Connie Claussen, said UNO needs a people person who will get the community more involved with athletics.

"Whether it be coming out and supporting us, and also hopefully by donating some money," she said.

Claussen said UNO athletics doesn't have any problems other than financial.

"We have a fine men's and women's program, but we have to raise more money so we can remain competitive with the schools in the North Central Conference."

But severe changes are not in UNO's future, Gibson said.

"The worst thing I could do is come in

here and say 'We're going to do this and this' and make a bunch of changes immediately," he said. "If we were in deep trouble in the athletic department and you had to make some crucial changes then you would have to do that, but we don't have to do that here."

Gibson would not specify on his long and short term plans for the athletic department, but said there is one standard he will uphold.

"We will follow all rules and regulations, and I know everybody will tell you that, but we will," Gibson said.

Gibson said he hasn't had the time to figure out a true plan for the future, but he has a few ideas about improving UNO's athletic programs.

One area Gibson would like to see improved is the UNO Field House.

"It's an old building," he said. "We need to do something with it. This is one project I would like to start working on, but that doesn't happen overnight."

Another area Gibson sees down the road for the UNO athletic department is expansion.

"I would like to add some more sports — some of them may be non-revenue sports — to expand from what we've had in the past."

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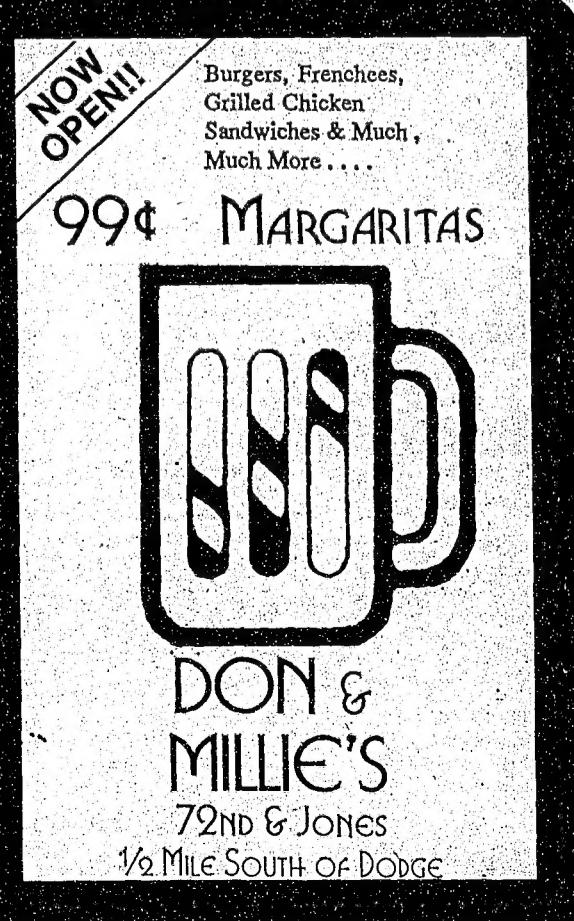
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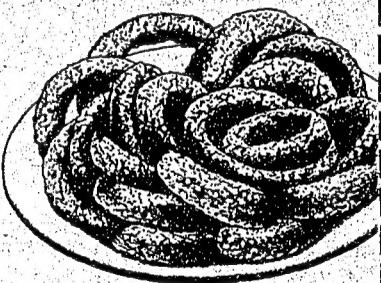
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